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**Masons. Live better.™**

Masonry started in Michigan in 1764 with the establishment of a lodge in Detroit. Since that time Masonry has existed in our state and quietly added to the quality of life that we all enjoy.

Today there are 338 lodges in communities large and small in every part of Michigan. Those lodges hold 47,500 members making the Masonic fraternity the largest entity of its kind.

The principles of the Masonic order are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. By Brotherly Love we learn to define the whole human race as one family under the fatherhood of God. Masons fervently believe in relieving the suffering of others, and that we must live a truthful life. These principles are the foundation of the fraternity and something that every Mason believes and practices.

Community charity is practiced by the local lodge as well as the Michigan Masonic Foundation. In the last two years the lodges have contributed over \$500,000.00 to worthy causes on a local level in our state. The Michigan Masonic Foundation provided matching funds in excess of \$125,000.00 for those charitable projects. During that same time frame those lodges contributed over 80,000 volunteer hours, working on projects as diverse as building walking paths in wetlands conservation areas, to building handicap accessible ramps at senior citizens centers, manning soup kitchens, staffing refreshment areas at Interstate rest stops, and quite literally hundreds of other charitable endeavours. This amount of volunteer hours does not include the over 125,000 hours of volunteer service given to elementary schools through the Beacon Project, the Beacon Project provides tutoring assistance, classroom help, playground construction and generally assisting the elementary school in any capacity that they may have a need.

The Michigan Masonic Foundation supports the Masonic Model Student Assistance Training Program. This program trains teachers, staff, and others in our schools how to identify and assist kids at risk of drug and alcohol abuse as well as other behavioral problems. This program is provided without charge to any school or attendee. The Grand Lodge of Michigan provides child identification through our MI-CHIP program. This program provides the latest technological techniques available for our kids and their families if it is ever needed. This program is also provided without charge to the child or their family.

The Masonic fraternity has been a significant part of the fabric and life of Michigan since before its inception. We hope you will assist us in assuring that it can continue its duty of building a better world for the generations that will follow.

Thank you.

# Share the Secret

*To helping others. To personal achievement. To brotherhood. To integrity. To family*